

sovereignty and security throughout all its territory.

Despite the remarkable achievements of the so-called Cedar Revolution, the Government of Lebanon continues to experience challenges to its rule. Targeted killings of public figures and the recent conflict between Hezbollah and Israel illustrate the dangers to Lebanon's stability. Furthermore, the increasing polarization and divide of the country's confessional communities demonstrates the need for a serious national dialogue that will deal with Lebanon's domestic struggles.

The provocative unilateral actions implemented by Hezbollah this past summer is evidence of the destructive influences Syria and Iran continue to play in Lebanon. The people of Lebanon and their government did not have any say in the destruction and heartbreak that was imposed upon their nation, yet they must be the ones to pay the price. In a clear indication that Hezbollah is willing to use its weapons internally, unless the current form of government is changed, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said he would only consider giving up its weapons when a strong, capable and just state was in place. This would strongly undermine Lebanon's democratic structures and could potentially lead to civil war and instability in the whole region.

Lebanon seeks to build itself up once again from beneath the ashes of war and destruction. In the absence of a regional peace, this may very well be the last opportunity to save Lebanon from a failed state scenario.

The United States has a vital interest in ensuring the security of a liberal democratic regime. It is important that United States assistance to Lebanon play a strategic role in strengthening Lebanon's central governing institutions that will ultimately lead to an empowered government that is able to meet the demands of all its citizens and comply with its international commitments and the major themes in this resolution.

In addition, to security assistance that enables the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure its borders, assistance needs to be targeted toward the passage of a new electoral law and increasing reforms in the Ministry of Justice. The electoral commission has submitted their review and now the Lebanese parliament needs to respond. A more representative electoral law will defy the modes of traditional sectarian leadership in Lebanon that have led to deadlock and stalemate.

These steps are vital to restoring and maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty and security by reducing the influence of Iran and Syria over Hezbollah and contributing to a broader representation of all Lebanese.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to the passage of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE NELSON TENNIS FOUNDATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Nelson Tennis Foundation and support the eighth annual Nel-

son Scholarship Tennis Classic which will be held in Georgetown, Texas, on October 20–22, 2006. This nonprofit foundation, named in honor of Jane and Charles “Coach” Nelson was established to support the game of tennis in the community of Georgetown, Texas. Charles and Jane exemplify a love for the game of tennis and a dedication to education. Combining these two passions, the Nelson Foundation has helped eligible high school seniors in the Georgetown Independent School District pursue their dreams for a college education. Since 1999, the Nelson Foundation has been able to award scholarships to 17 deserving student athletes through the proceeds from the tennis classic.

The Nelsons are retired educators with over 35 years of teaching and coaching experience in public schools. Both Charles and Jane began playing the game of tennis as teenagers in Huntsville, Texas. After several years of teaching and coaching in both Texas and New York, the Nelsons returned home to central Texas where Charles took over as head tennis coach at Round Rock High School for 4 years. This was followed by 3 years as the head tennis coach at Westwood High School in Round Rock and 7 years working with the Southwestern University tennis program. Both Jane and Charles are active in playing tournament tennis and remain outstanding contributors to their community. Through the years, they have been teammates, tennis partners, and friends to so many in the Georgetown and Williamson County area.

The Nelsons have been members of the Berry Creek Racquet Club in Georgetown where they have been involved in the club's Pro-Am Annual Tennis Tournaments. After several years, this tournament was renamed the Nelson Tennis Scholarship Classic for which the Nelson Tennis Foundation was established.

The Nelson Foundation embodies community, fellowship, and a love for the game of tennis. All of these are at the heart of Charles and Jane Nelson and typify the generosity and character of Georgetown, Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEO DIEHL

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that the world goes on because a few people in every generation believe in it utterly, accept it unquestionably, underwrite it with their lives. Leo Diehl was one such man.

A community is gathering together in Harwich today to celebrate Leo's remarkable life that took him from Beacon Hill to the Halls of Congress. Those who remember him recall his wit, tenacity, dignity, compassion, irascibility, loyalty, and most importantly, his lust for life.

Diagnosed with polio at the age of 6, Leo never let his infirmity get in the way of living. Never one for sitting on the sidelines, he was determined to do all the things the other kids in Charlestown were doing. He was a formidable athlete—pitching 27 innings in a sandlot baseball game or playing goalie for the neighborhood hockey team. He refused confinement in a wheelchair and the pity of others.

In later life, he would say the experience of losing his legs and learning to use crutches to walk gave him the grace to understand the struggles that so many poor and working-class families endure on a daily basis. He reminded people that his brain, eyes, ears and, most importantly, his mouth still worked. Leo used them all to right wrongs where he saw them and to speak up, even stand-up, for those who didn't have a voice, who weren't as strong or as brave as he was.

Elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the same year as Tip O'Neill, the two men became fast friends and allies. Later, when Leo would lose his seat, he would begin a storied career in the Commonwealth's tax department, eventually rising to tax commissioner.

Then, the call came. Newly elected Majority Whip, and his old friend, Tip O'Neill, wanted him to come to Washington, DC. He needed a good right-hand, a conscience and a confidant. The rest, they say, is history.

He dined with kings and queens, prime ministers and cardinals, but never forgot his working class roots. He was a constant presence in this House; a role-model of character and integrity for Members and staff alike. Many called him the “watch-dog”; lots of other people called him other things—usually behind his back. Regardless, at the end of the day, everyone had the greatest respect for Leo—a man who served this institution well and faithfully.

In later years, he would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity with his good friend and with the help of those he inspired.

St. Luke reminds us that to those to whom much is given, much is required—and should be expected. In the case of Leo Diehl, he gave as good as he got. Now he's in a place, joined with his wife Grace, family and friends; made whole and perfect in His sight—and most likely still helping his friend, his Speak-ah, Tom make the streets of heaven a better place.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need to protect and preserve Native American languages. In my state of Minnesota, it is becoming more difficult to find elders to teach the Ojibwe language—the fourth most spoken Native language in North America.

The facts cannot be ignored—decades of federal restrictions on the instruction and use of Native languages led to their deliberate decline.

Despite treaties and laws and executive orders that call for the preservation and incorporation of Native language and culture in education—we are living at a time when Native American languages and culture are being eroded.

Title VII—which exists to ensure Native children receive Native language and culture instruction—has been reduced or reallocated to